

AN ORDINANCE**BY: COUNCILMEMBER IVORY LEE YOUNG JR.** **AN ORDINANCE TO RENAME KENNEDY STREET NW (FROM GRAY STREET TO OLIVER STREET RENAMED TO ALEXANDER STREET: TO WAIVE SECTION 138-8 (c) OF THE CODE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, Since 1969 when Dr. Cameron Madison Alexander accepted the call to pastor Atlanta's historic Antioch Baptist Church North located in the English Avenue Community. Dr. Alexander has remained steadfast in his commitment to serve as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of the members of Antioch, the community's residents and the English Avenue Neighborhood. His contributions have represented a beacon of hope and a community anchor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cameron Madison Alexander is the son of a Baptist minister born and raised in Atlanta and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Morehouse College and a Master of Divinity Degree from the Morehouse School of Religion. Dr. Alexander also has Doctor of Divinity Degrees from the United Theological Seminary (Louisiana) and the Morehouse School of Religion; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander relinquished his role as president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. in 2004 after 29 years of remarkable leadership and service. During his long tenure as president, Dr. Alexander transformed the body into one of the nation's strongest and most respected state-wide religious organizations, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander has been extremely involved in local and national organizations. He has served as treasurer and chairman of the board of trustees for the Morehouse School of Religion, and has been a member of the boards of the Interdenominational Theological Center, the Morehouse School of Medicine, the Atlanta Baptist Ministers Union, and the Atlanta Research Institute. He has also provided leadership and service to the United States Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census, and has served as chairman of the Atlanta Football Classics; and

WHEREAS, for 40 years under Dr. Alexander's leadership Antioch has served as a stabilizing force for the English Avenue Neighborhood. In 1969, Antioch's congregation functioned with one part time clerical employee on a modest annual budget of only thirty eight thousand dollars and had a declining membership of less than 500 persons. Today, the mega church has 60 employees, counts among its membership more than twelve thousand persons, and operates on an annual budget of five million dollars. Instead of moving to more tranquil suburbs as most large city churches have traditionally Dr. Alexander and the Historic Antioch Baptist Church North have remained committed to English Avenue and the City of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander, as evidence of their commitment to the English Avenue Neighborhood, 1991, built their ultra modern, multi-million dollar worship center in English Avenue, the church campus includes countless numbers of strategically assembled tracts and large acreages of land including a bi-level administrative complex, a large business plaza that houses the offices of the Antioch Urban Ministries, a community computer center, and the membership orientation facilities, four major parking lots, and a multi-functional Youth Center and adjoining recreational green space for outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander is extremely serious and deeply committed to removing the burdens faced by society's neediest people, he established the Congregation's highly acclaimed Antioch Urban Ministries in 1991. AUMI is the umbrella organization for six key outreach ministries: providing transitional housing for men and women recovering from addiction; a downtown Atlanta hotel that provides apartments for the working poor; and a home for persons who are HIV-positive; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander has organized the Bethursday Development Corporation to manage economic development and other investment opportunities of the Antioch Congregation. In 2005, the Corporation opened an incredible mixed income apartment complex with 261 units on the church campus. In addition to the Elm Street Townhome Development which features 24 units of affordable Townhomes ; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alexander, is a life time member of the NAACP and the SCLC, he is also a former vice president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and former dean for the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress, an auxiliary of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc. Dr. Alexander has also served as the General Chairman for the Atlanta Host Committee for the National Baptist Conventions held in Atlanta in 1985, 1992, and 2005. In 1995, he served as co-chairman of the Atlanta Billy Graham Crusade; and

WHEREAS, In January 2009, Dr. Alexander was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame commemorating his legacy of sacrifice and struggle for the Movement. In February, 2009, Dr. Alexander's sermon was selected by the Library of Congress for inclusion in the American Folklife Center project that preserves Americans' accounts of, and reactions to, important cultural events. In addition, he has been appointed to the Global Advisory Board for the Center for Civil and Human Rights (CCHR) of Atlanta. On September 25, 2009, Dr. Alexander will be inducted into the Black College Alumni Hall of Fame, and

WHEREAS, the renaming of Kennedy Street, NW to honor a native Atlantan who continues to serve and champion the causes of the English Avenue Neighborhood and who has made significant contributions to the City of Atlanta.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA GEORGIA as follows:

SECTION 1: That Kennedy Street N.W. is renamed Alexander Street from Gray Street, N.W. to Oliver Street, N.W.

SECTION 2: That Section 2.2 is hereby waived to allow the street name change to take place.

SECTION 3: That the name change is effective upon the approval of Council and the Mayor.

SECTION 4: That the appropriate city agencies, including but not limited to the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Planning, and the Municipal Clerk, be directed to take such steps as are necessary to have the name changed on street signs, maps and other official documents and markers.